

## House Resolution No. 2087

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State residents who answered the patriotic call to national service during times when their nation required a commitment of time, knowledge, skills, and energy in military units serving on foreign battlefields; and

**Whereas**, David W. McMillen of Carthage was a nineteen-year-old Private First Class and a Ranger in the United States Army when he and seven other soldiers landed in the middle of an enemy camp after their helicopter was shot down in Vietnam; and

**Whereas**, courageously enduring four hours of close-range attacks while Army and Air Force aircraft attempted support, David McMillen continued to fight enemy combatants when a rescue helicopter arrived on the scene; and

**Whereas**, after giving sufficient cover for his comrades to board the second helicopter and singlehandedly killing an enemy soldier who stormed the rescue aircraft, David McMillen then continued moving side-to-side in the helicopter to fire on opposing soldiers from all four cardinal directions as the men made their escape; and

**Whereas**, recommended and approved for a Bronze Star for valor, David McMillen never received his medallion, due in part to the dissolution of his unit in February 1972; and

**Whereas**, employed by Specialty Brands for more than twenty years and a retired member of the 203rd National Guard Unit stationed at Camp Crowder, David McMillen finally received his Bronze Star during a ceremony which was conducted by Brigadier General Edmund T. Beckett on Saturday, March 27, 2004, at the request of Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Mills, the senior Army officer present that day in 1971 and the senior surviving officer of D Troop, 3rd Squadron, Fifth United States Air Cavalry which carried out the rescue; and

**Whereas**, Bronze Star holder David McMillen is the beloved spouse of Debbie; the loving father of Poppi Dietz, Chad McMillen, and Misty McMillen; the devoted grandfather of Jessica Dietz and Michael Howard; and the son of Wayne and Lois McMillen:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to salute former Army Ranger David McMillen and to convey this legislative body's most heartfelt congratulations now that he has belatedly received his well-deserved Bronze Star; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of David W. McMillen of Carthage, Missouri.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Steve Hunter  
District No. 127

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2087, adopted April 26, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker